

This contamination of our atmosphere cannot be easily undone. Carbon dioxide stays in the atmosphere for hundreds of years. So we have to prevent it from being put there in the first place. There is so much we can do together. There is so much we can do to say this challenge is real, to say we will work together as Americans to take this on and to help lead the world in ending this horrific damage that will persist for hundreds of years.

There is so much to do. We can create millions of good-paying jobs together for America and export products to the world instead of buying products from the world. We can make sure that as we do that and as we invest in an energy transformation, not only do we create millions of good-paying jobs, but we also make sure that rural America is not left behind, that our former fossil fuel communities are not left behind, and that our frontline urban communities that have so often been left behind are not left behind. We can make an economic renaissance that goes into every corner of our Nation where often economic improvements have not gone before.

These elements are the core elements of the Green New Deal. One is to face reality and together say: Yes, we have a big challenge in front of us of devastating consequences and growing consequences. Maybe it was a theory 20 years ago, but today it is a reality in every town across this country. It is a big calamity. We should say we will work together to take it on. That is the second basic principle, coming together, and then there is a surge of activity to develop alternatives and deploy alternatives to the use of fossil fuels.

The third piece of this puzzle is that in so doing, we will create millions of good-paying jobs. Isn't that what so many leaders run on? I certainly love the idea of good-paying jobs.

My dad, a union mechanic, was able to raise a family and be part of the great middle class of America and be

part of the American dream: buy a house, take the family camping on vacations, participate in having a 40-hour workweek, and get paid overtime if you had to work more. Yet that dream is further and further out of reach. Don't we want to create those better paying jobs in the process of renovating our energy economy?

Years ago, I undertook tearing the insides out of a house in the 1980s and then rebuilt that house. When you rebuild a house, there is plumbing, wiring, framing, sheetrock, windows, and roofing. I would buy a lot of stuff to renovate that house. That type of construction renovation puts a lot of people to work. If construction renovation puts people to work, think about how renovating our entire energy economy puts people to work. That is the third core principle.

The fourth is to make sure those economic gains go to those who have previously been left behind. That is an important message for rural America. That is an important message for urban frontline communities previously left behind. There is so much work to do and so many ways we can make sure these communities participate.

When I go out to Oregon, I do a town-hall in every county every year—36 counties. Twenty-two of them are rural. In political terms, you would describe them as deep red. People are frustrated by the very low wages and the very low number of jobs in those rural communities. Now we have an opportunity to say we have to go to work in an intensive way—a way that can create jobs all across this Nation and all across rural America. Instead, we have the majority leader bringing the issue to the floor as a farce. That is profoundly disturbing.

I encourage all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, let us not miss this opportunity before us—an opportunity for America to lead, an opportunity for America to build its economy, an opportunity for America to

lead the world. We cannot afford to miss that opportunity. America cannot afford for us to miss that opportunity, and the world cannot afford for us to fail.

Thank you.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:18 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, March 26, 2019, at 10 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

##### IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

##### *To be general*

GEN. JOHN W. RAYMOND

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

##### *To be general*

LT. GEN. JEFFREY L. HARRIGAN

##### IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 7033:

##### *To be general*

GEN. JAMES C. MCCONVILLE

##### FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER:

KENNETH H. MERTEN, OF VIRGINIA  
GEETA PASI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
TODD D. ROBINSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
ERIC SETH RUBIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MATTHEW HEYWOOD TUELLER, OF UTAH  
ALICE G. WELLS, OF WASHINGTON  
KEVIN M. WHITAKER, OF VIRGINIA